

Proposal Abstract

Applicant Name: Butte-Silver Bow Local Government

Project Title: Big Hole Transmission Line – Year 2

Project Description and Benefits to Restoration:

Due to the adverse impacts of mining from the Berkeley Pit and the underground mines, the groundwater aquifer in portions of Butte can never be used for potable water. The estimate provided in the NRD assessment of lost groundwater resources on the Butte Hill alone exceed 5,000 gallons per minute – about the average amount of water used by all Butte citizens on a typical day (except during sprinkling season). Consequently, to protect human health, use of existing groundwater wells is limited and there are prohibitions on new wells in certain areas. Given this permanent loss of groundwater, it is extremely critical that a replacement water supply is kept available for Butte residents.

The primary source of that supply is the Big Hole River, located approximately 22 miles to the south of Butte. From a dam on the river, water is pumped to the Feely Water Treatment Plant and over the Continental Divide to Butte through a 36-inch steel transmission pipeline.

In this second year application (of a multi-year replacement schedule), Butte-Silver Bow requests \$1,650,543 from the Upper Clark Fork River Restoration Fund and pledges \$504,862 in matching funds to replace up to a total of 10,000 feet of the Big Hole Transmission line. This replacement project will conserve water resources by eliminating substantial leaks and improve efficiencies in the delivery system from the Big Hole River to Butte. The replacements will also decrease the potential health risks to Butte citizens associated with exposure to contaminants.

This proposal is part of an aggressive capital improvement program to repair, restore and replace Butte's drinking water system – a complex infrastructure to import water from across the Continental Divide and from the mountain creeks surrounding the city. Since 1992, when Butte Silver Bow became the owner/operator of the neglected 100-year-old system, more than \$50 million has been invested by ratepayers and through funding made available through legal settlements with the previous owner and the NRD program.

2008 Application		BUDGET SUMMARY FORM				
EXPENSE CATEGORY		UCFRB RESTORATION FUND	MATCHING FUNDS			TOTAL
			Cash	In-Kind	Subtotal	
1	SALARIES AND WAGES		\$26,639.68		\$26,639.68	\$26,639.68
2	FRINGE BENEFITS		\$12,008.92		\$12,008.92	\$12,008.92
3	CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$1,650,542.72	\$458,484.09		\$458,484.09	\$2,109,026.81
4	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS					
5	COMMUNICATIONS					
6	TRAVEL					
7	RENT AND UTILITIES					
8	EQUIPMENT					
9	MISCELLANEOUS			\$7,729.72	\$7,729.72	\$7,729.72
TOTAL		\$1,650,542.72	\$497,132.69	\$7,729.72	\$504,862.41	\$2,155,405.13

In electronic form this spreadsheet will automatically calculate the expense totals from the Budget Detail Form.